

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 ABF-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /157 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6883

INFO USUN NEW YORK 641

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5796

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN TS

SUBJECT: KEY ISSUES AT 29TH UNGA

REF: STATE 184584; TUNIS 5742, 4297

1. SEPT 17 EMBOFFS PRESENTED MME. TNANI, DIVISION CHIEF FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MOFA, ARGUMENTATION DRAWN FROM STATE REFTEL ON FOLLOWING ISSUES: STEAMROLLER TACTICS, UN BUDGET INCREASES, SALARY LEVELS OF UN EMPLOYEES, AND FINANCING OF UNRWA AND UNEF/ UNDOF.

2. RE STEAMROLLER, TNANI DID NOT SHOW FAMILIARITY WITH OUR EARLIER DEMARCHE TO HER SUMMER REPLACEMENT(TUNIS 4297). SHE ASKED HOW CONSCRIPTION COULD AFFECT SITUATION WHEN, INCREASINGLY, REGIONAL GROUPS ARRIVE AT UNGA WITH AGREED POSITIONS ALREADY FORMULATED. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT EVEN BLOC POSITIONS MAY IN SOME CASES HAVE BEEN DECIDED, EARLY AND CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS MIGHT PRODUCE LANGUAGE WHICH NOT AT ODDS WITH BLOC POSITION, AND MORE ACCEPTABLE TO CONSIDERABLE MINORITY WHICH HAD FOUND ITSELF AT 6TH SPECIAL SESSION
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PLACED IN DIFFICULT POSITION BY CONSENSUS TACTICS EMPLOYED.

EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT USG WAS LIKELY TO INSIST ON VOTING SUCH ISSUES AT 29TH UNGA IF CONFRONTED WITH CONSENSUS DEMANDS ON RESOLUTIONS IT COULD NOT ACCEPT. EMBOFF ASKED OHAT GOT USE ITS INFLUENCE TO URGE OTHER STATES TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH US DEL, ARGUING THAT USG IS SINCERELY INTERESTED IN WORKING FRANKLY AND HARD WITH ALL OTHER STATES TO PRODUCE REALISTIC, BENEFICAL RESOLUTIONA DN PROGRAMS. TNANI INDICATED ONLY THAT OF COURSE GOT UNDERSTOOD IMPORTANCE OF FULL CONSULTATION AMONG DELEGATIONS.

3. TNANI TOOK NOTES ON ISSUES OF GENERAL UN BUDGET AND EMPLOYEE SALARY HIKES, REGISTERING SURPRISE AT SHARP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRESENT LEVELS OF UN AND US CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES.

4. RE UNRWA FINANCIAL PROBLEMS TNANI STATED THT GOT INPUT CONTINUES AT SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR. SHE SAID DECISION ALREADY TAKEN NOT TO INCREASE IT CURRENTLY. EMBOFF ACKNOWLEDGED RECENT ARAB LEAGUE DECISION TO EFFECT USG SHOULD NOT LOOK TO ARABS TO SUPPORT UNRWA, BUT POINTED OUT CERTAIN ARAB STATES HAD LONG BEEN HELPFUL WITH MATERIAL SUPPORT OF AGENCY PROVIDING VITAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICES TO REFUGEES. HE URGED THAT GOT, WHOSE FINANCIAL POSITION IMPROVED THIS YEAR, CONSIDER INCREASED SUPPORT, BOTH FINANCIAL AND DIPLOMATIC (AMOUNG ARAB AND THIRD WORLD STATES) TO RESOLVE UNRWA FINANCIAL PROBLEM. TNANI SAID DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT WAS POSSIBLE.

5. UNEF/UNDOF FINANCING ISSUE: TNANI SAID TUNISIA WAS DOING ITS SHARE AND WOULD CONTINUE DO SO, UNDER WHATEVER FINANCING FORMULA EMERGED. EMBOFF URGED GOT STICK TO PRESENT UNEF FINANCING SYSTEM, PER STATE REFTTEL, AND OPPOSE SOVIET-PROPOSED CHANGES.

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